

REMARKS

Responsive to the requirement for restriction, applicants elect Group I, claims 1-8, drawn to lactic bacterial strain, without traverse.

Non-elected claims 9-17 are canceled herewith, but may be made the subject of a divisional application, to be filed at any time during the pendency of the present application.

Responsive to the requirement for election of species, applicants elect *Lactobacillus planatarum*.

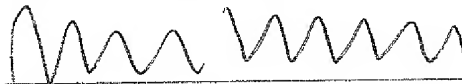
It is believed that claims 1-9 are readable on the elected embodiment.

An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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